Chicago Daily Tribune

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The Daily Tribune.

OCTOBER.

Behold our forest trees! Behold
Their deep carnation mixed with gold,
Brilliant but brief, their beauty glows
With all the colors of the rose,
Spreading a gay and gorgeous scene
Where all so late was living green.

The Maple's yellow leaf is there,
The Beechen, with its branches bare;
The tall Oak waves its foliage red
Above the dying and the dead,
And bathed by Autumn's shifting dews,
Our woodlands show a the sand hues.

And such is Human Life! At first
Our young hopes blossom into birth,
And warmed by manhood's genial rays,
They open to the light of day,
Then comes old age, with icy breath,
To wither all we love, to death,
And as the leaves fall one by one,
Beneath October's frost and sun,
So fix our joys; till all bared,
Naught but the naked branch is left.

FOR HUSBANDS AND WIVES.

"The Little Foxes that Spoil the Vines."

BY ANN S. STEPHENS.

The breach widened daily between Mr. C. and his wife, the parties with a delicacy of honor peculiar to their sex, carefully concealing from the world the fact that they were no longer friends. Mrs. C. was a woman of strong domestic affections, and fully appreciated the duties of her station. Her own domestic cares were not neglected as time passed, for when her little girl was but two years old her mother gave birth to a twin boy. Now, if never before, as the neighbors said, "the doctor" was busy and noticed. He required the most exact and punctilious attention to the rest of his boy—the morning and the evening bath, the daily exercise, regular hours for feeding and sleeping, and no sleepless, at the end of his great nursery.

"Maybe this is right enough," said Mrs. Sloan, who lived near them, and was the mother of nine robust, ruddy-faced boys; "it's well enough, if one can have strength and help. But babies all come up somehow, but I never had no rules about it; I nursed 'em when they cried, washed 'em when they were dirty, and gave 'em peppermints and sooth'en when they had the colic. Your husband's main particular, Mrs. C., and don't know enough about woman's work, or he wouldn't expect you to do it, especially as you've got with three children, and only one girl to help. He forgets there's washin' day, and bakin' day, and ironin' day. Lawful sakes! if he should see my Tim rollin about the floor, Monday, with an old woollen frock on and a crust of bread in his mouth, he'd think the child would have a fit of sickness; but he's first and last about baby. The long and short of it is, Mrs. C., you must learn to have a mind of your own, and take no notice of the doctor's whims and notions."

But she felt that her husband's plans were best, if they could only be executed; and she strove, with her one inefficient girl and her three little ones, to gratify his taste in food, dress, and all his directions as to the management of the children. They were possibilities, but he expected of his wife that what is never has been and never will be accomplished.

The doctor was seldom with his family now, for his practice and his study demanded nearly all his time; but he came as regular as his profession would allow to his meals, and he was disturbed if he did not find them as punctual as himself. More frequently than ever before he was heavy, and the most indigestible items overlooking. Sissy could eat no dinner, because she had been fed between meals; and an old cradle (a very useless thing, he asserted) was found in the kitchen, and Betsy was rocking and singing with all her might, to hush the loud cries of one of the boys.

"O, dear!" he would exclaim, "I do wish Emma, you would try to understand the laws of health, and be more systematic; the health, and perhaps the life of our children, depend upon attention to these little things."

Poor Emma had heard this often that she was married, and if the truth must be told, was becoming indifferent. She had struggled to perform what the doctor called a wife's duties, till her pale face and wasted form ought to have told him that she had a task beyond human might. But he heeded it not; he was engaged in writing a treatise on the "cause of tubercular diseases," and he had little time to waste upon the sad, pale face of his wife.

It is not strange that in that wife's heart there sprung up a yearning for sympathy, a conscious loss of support, and of unassisted and unprincipled efforts to do right. There was now and then a looking back to the happy days of girlhood, but never a sense of present weariness and desolation overcame her. She had no time to read, and the doctor seldom read aloud, or if at rare intervals he did, it was to some medical treatise, which he required her to hear for the benefit which she might gain. One sunny spot in the desert only remained—it was the room of the baby. At that time the domestic and the children were generally asleep and quietly, without interruption, they read a portion from the Book of books, sang their evening hymn, and received their mother's blessing at the Throne of Grace. Blessed moments, that, like one golden thread, kept those hearts together!

One evening, after Mrs. C. had retired to her quiet sitting-room—quiet only when her little ones were hushed in slumber—she was alarmed by the abrupt entrance of two men, supporting her husband in their arms. Mary's ha ailment, said the doctor to her. "I have broken my leg and otherwise wounded myself, but I fear nothing for my life, save the effect of the shock upon my wife. Where is she?"

With the sinking despair of one for the first time called on whether too long and the fearful thing not long enough.

The doctor's limb was "doing well," he said to his wife, as she stood over him for the night, "and I hope I shall not trouble you to read any more. My eyesight will be better now. I have no doubt of it."

"Some time, you will read aloud," she replied, "for I am getting quite interested in your books, and have found them very useful to me. I really ought to ask your pardon for having formerly treated them with so much neglect."

This was too much for even the doctor's firmness to bear. "He drew his wife to his side, and, with her head clasped in his, told her how much he needed her forgiveness for his former unfeeling, rash feeling spirit. "I think I know your cares, illness, and for the did I have wisdom and patience which a mother needs. Henceforth I will aid you in your duties to the best of my ability, and let me beg for you so her your husband's heart be the repository of your cares and trials; their recital will never annoy me again."

Tears blinded the eyes of the wife, she could not speak, and yet her heart was full of joy. Beautiful indeed was this melting of hearts—this had been estranged, and pleased to hover ing angels were the mutual promises made that with God's help, they would aid each other in their duties, and bear their mutual burdens.

Sweet as incense on holy altars was the prayer offered that night, and full of blessing that petition again repeated.

There is now many a silver thread amid the dark locks of the doctor's hair, and his wife has found a cozy and looks very matronly with her three girls and twin boys; but her brow is unpaid and her heart at peace, for her husband is a tow-er of strength and help to his heart-trusted in her. On the blank leaf of his last present to her (don't smile, reader—it was Gordon on the Diseases of Children) he wrote—

"Our cares in a silver old age,
Are only the shadows of sorrow,
Our love, once sacred and flame,
Has grow and is sacred with added years,
Will girls in room with their cheer,
And true memorial ever bear."

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CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE THURSDAY MORNING OCTOBER 27, 1859

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